

COAL MEN HAVEN'T MADE UP THEIR MINDS.

President Mitchell Meets the District Officers.

Appears to Be Feeling Against Morgan Proposition.

ARE ALL RETICENT.

Say That Miners Will Have to Decide.

Prospect of Immediate Settlement Not Bright.

MORGAN GOES HOME.

After White House Conference Returns to New York.

President Roosevelt Waiting to Hear from Mitchell.

Text of the Operators' Proposal of Arbitration.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 14.—President Mitchell was asked at noon by the Associated Press whether he and the district officers had the power to consider the operators' plan and end the strike. His reply was: "Without special reference to the statement issued by the coal operators, it is a rule of our organization that no settlement can be made by the officers of the union without the consent of a delegate convention."

In reply to another question, as to whether the Shamokin convention which formulated the demands to the operators, or the Hazleton convention, which made the strike permanent, had given him this consent, he said: "No."

The three district presidents are on their way here. President Mitchell will immediately go into conference with them on the new offer. The miners' chief refused to say whether a convention call will be considered today or when or where such a meeting, if held, will take place. He also declined to say how long it would take to get the delegates together.

Mr. Mitchell continues to decline to answer all questions as to whether he is for or against the operators' plan as a whole or in part. He has not yet received official notification of the operators' desire to arbitrate.

There were lively scenes about strike headquarters today. Mine workers and leaders who had been near headquarters in many days dropped in to hear the news. Mr. Mitchell had a number of visitors, among them Lewis Hamlin, who had been in the United States between Mr. Mitchell and Senators Quay and Penrose in their conference with the coal road presidents in New York last week. Mr. Hamlin came here hurriedly, stated his short time and left without giving information to any one. It is evident that he carried a message to Mr. Mitchell from some one.

One of the local leaders who came in from the outlying territory, made this statement in the local lobby: "The men in the rule are angry at the proposition made by the operators. They say they would rather go down to straight defiance than to let the operators on the arbitration plan they propose."

This, however, must not be taken as the sentiment of all the miners. There are many who see a ray of hope in the situation. A disposition is shown among many to trust to the good offices of the president of the United States.

WAITING TO HEAR FROM MITCHELL.

Washington, Oct. 14.—At noon today it was said in the White House that the proposition relative to the proposition of the anthracite coal operators had been received from President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers.

The proposition was not transmitted to President Mitchell officially either by President Roosevelt or by the coal operators. It was addressed to the public and it is assumed that Mr. Mitchell will take cognizance of it from the press. In the event he should not do so, however, it is possible that the president would officially notify him of the proposition of the operators. Inasmuch as the communication from the operators was in the shape of an address to the public it is possible that Mr. Mitchell may make his reply in a similar manner.

The president has agreed to appoint the commission suggested by the coal operators, provided such a commission should prove satisfactory to the miners. During the early part of today the president had several conferences, all bearing upon the strike situation. Secretary Root called at the White House immediately after the departure of Messrs. J. Pierpont Morgan and Robert S. Bacon for New York, and had a brief interview with each of them.

Soon afterward Frank P. Sargent, commissioner of immigration, had a conference with the president. He declined to discuss the subject of the interview, but it was believed to be with reference to the personnel of the proposed commission.

Commissioner of Labor Carroll D. Wright also had an extended interview with the president. At its conclusion, while he was leaving the White House, he declared to the Associated Press that he believed that the coal strike was on the eve of settlement. He had no information from President Mitchell.

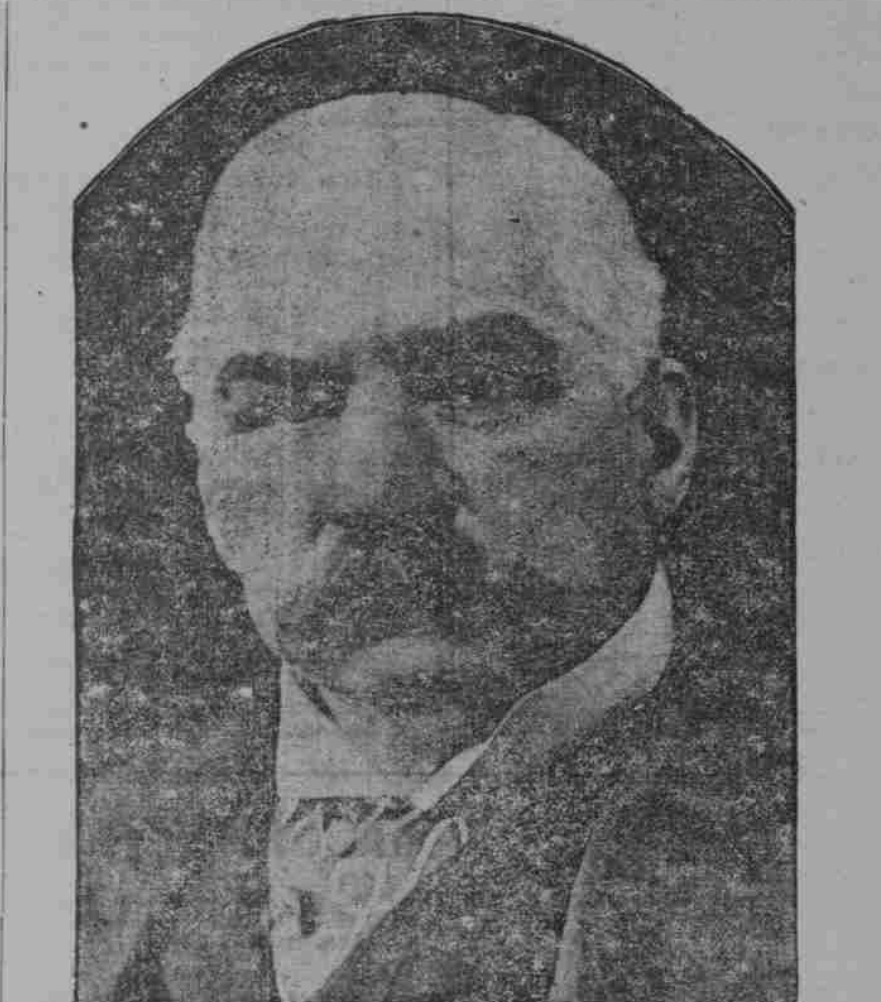
The feeling at the White House is optimistic. The belief is general among official and civilian circles that a long step has been taken toward a final settlement of the strike. President Mitchell makes his reply no further action on the part of the president is expected.

It developed today that the main features of the operators' proposition were discussed and in a general way agreed to at the conference between Secretary Root and J. Pierpont Morgan in New York on Saturday last. Mr. Morgan was very anxious to bring about an adjustment and Secretary Root was able to point out whereby the main obstacles to yielding on the part of the operators could be removed.

BAER SAYS "MY SENTIMENTS."

New York, Oct. 14.—President Baer of the Philadelphia & Reading railroad, arrived here today from a Western trip. He said he had come to attend the regular weekly meeting of the Temple Iron company.

"Do you consider that the proposition



J. Pierpont Morgan, the Man Who Offers Solution of the Great Coal Strike

submitted to the president in the nature of a resolution from the stand taken by the operators?" he was asked.

"I happen to have drawn the proposition myself," said Mr. Baer. "At least I had a considerable part in preparing it, and I may state that it embodies my opinions and views. Further than that I cannot say anything would be the result of the offer made, he replied: "I am not a prophet."

Mr. Baer was asked whether the proposition looked to immediate resumption on full time.

"I do not care to discuss that," he said.

President Oliphant of the Delaware & Hudson was asked if the public would not look upon the proposition of the operators as a concession to the miners.

"It is not a concession to the miners," he replied. "It is a concession to humanity. It is a move taken to relieve the distress prevalent throughout the country. The use of coal was a serious matter to contemplate. If the season had been summer instead of winter, such a statement might not have been called for."

President Truesdale of the Lackawanna said:

"The whole matter rests with the president. We reserved no right to question the appointment of any individual on the commission whom the president may see fit to appoint on the terms of our offer. I do not know whether the president intends to consult Mr. Mitchell before deciding to appoint the commission, and I have no idea of its possible makeup. If he sees fit to appoint an arbitration committee, our proposition we will not question the appointment of any individual he may select."

On the subject of giving the miners "full time" when the strike was over, President Truesdale said Mr. Mitchell did not speak except for his own road and company. That, he said, for two years, he had been shut down for the holidays. He assumed that the old practice of the company would be resumed.

Mr. Truesdale was also asked if the coal roads had sufficient cars to carry coal. He replied that he thought they could do so positively. He stated that, in the absence of the signature of John Markle, the independent operator, from the petition to President Roosevelt.

President Fowler of the Erie & Western, when asked why Mr. Markle had not been one of the signers, replied that he did not know that Mr. Markle was anything about the move to obtain peace.

Asked if the operators had received any assurances as to the action of the president in the matter he replied in the negative.

On being asked what influences, if any, induced the operators to submit the different proposals to the president, Mr. Fowler replied:

"It was chiefly due to the pressure of public opinion, or, rather, you might say, public necessity. We recognized that the public would suffer from scarcity of coal if something was not done soon, and we concluded that it would be honorable to overlook in a measure the rights of the independent operators in order that a way out of a serious predicament might be found. Many of the schools were getting ready to shut down and still greater hardships might be suffered."

District Presidents Nichols and Fahy arrived here from Boston at 2:30 p. m. They had been addressing meetings in the interests of the miners. Mr. Nichols had nothing to say, but when Mr. Fahy was asked what he thought of the new turn of affairs he said:

"The strike cannot be settled without the consent of the miners. We are not dealing in gold bricks of any kind."

"Do you mean by that that the operators' arbitration plan is not acceptable?"

"Make any deduction you want to," he replied.

MITCHELL CENTER OF INTEREST.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 14.—President Mitchell of the United Mine Workers, refused point blank to talk for publication at this time on the new proposal for arbitration of the strike, laid before President Roosevelt last night, by president of the coal-carrying railroads. No official information can be had as to whether he will make a statement later in the day. The news of the new offer was variously received by the striking miners of the region. It did not become known until well in the morning and there were many different views taken by the men. There is a large number of mine workers who favor a

shipment in 48 hours, and the amount increased to 100,000 or 125,000 tons a day at the end of an hour. The coal is taken to New York and other Atlantic cities in 24 hours from the time it is brought from the mines.

The fact seems to indicate preparation on the part of the coal companies to transport coal in large quantities is the arrival of the coal in the centers of an increased number of cars.

HIS BACK BROKEN.

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 14.—Orlando Schooley, who works in the Scranton district, newly recruited men to work at the Edgerton colliery in Jersey Monday afternoon, was set upon by a mob of 100 and beaten so badly with clubs and stones that it is feared he will not live. When taken to the emergency hospital at Carbondale, it was found that his back was broken. The mob, who were with Schooley were allowed to go unmolested on their way to take a train out of town. They said they came from Wyoming county and that they were to be given jobs as firemen at \$2 a day. A company from the Thirteenth regiment, at Carbondale, was on the scene of assault on a special train after the mob dispersed.

According to the claims of the operators, work was resumed at four collieries in this district, the Bellevue and Hyde Park of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western company in this city, and the Johnson Nos. 1 and 2 of the New York, Ontario & Western company in Poughkeepsie. All the companies, with the exception of the Delaware & Hudson, reported good yields of coal in the working forces at their various collieries. The Pennsylvania company had a gain of eighty, all told.

At United Mine Workers' headquarters the statement was given out that the Bellevue was opened with seven men, and that the Johnson Nos. 1 and 2, Lackawanna & Western collieries, and that only one car of coal was hoisted. It was further asserted that the engineer, who had been in the mine, had just quit work when the non-union men appeared. The claim was made that since Friday forty men had been injured, most of them employees of North Scranton collieries, and that the Plymouth No. 2 colliery of the Delaware & Hudson company had been closed yesterday because of desertions. At the Delaware & Hudson company's office it was stated that this colliery is only now being worked by a few men, and that yesterday was one of the days the breaker worked.

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